

## Eccentric Sand Dollar

If you're poor and weird,  
the failed test of a purple urchin,  
washed-up, stinking, flitting flies,  
don't expect much respect,

but with money or a brand,  
craft coin kitsch from a mermaid's purse,  
then you're eccentric—  
a dollar in the sand,

in the seaside shop, on the window sill,  
bleached clean  
for the tourists,  
faintly impressed with a star or flower  
from an earlier, richer,  
better life.

Henry Hughes